

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph [0044] with the following amended paragraph:

[0044] In addition to the OS initialization 610 and application initialization 620, the application watchdog timer device must be initialized 630. This initialization is consists of setting appropriate bits in a timer value register and a control and status register (shown in Figure 7) within the watchdog device. The timer value register is a 16-bit counter that counts down to a system reset. The control and status register is an 8-bit configuration register that enables the application watchdog and the early expiration warning interrupts. The control and status register also includes a timer reset field. The timer value register is initialized by writing the initial count value. The control and status register is initialized by setting an enable bit and optionally setting an early warning enable bit. Additional information regarding the register contents is provided below.